



BILLINGE & WINSTANLEY U.D.C.

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1946



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J.S. MATHER

Medical Officer of Health.

C. BROWN

Sanitary Inspector.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BIRMINGHAM AND WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mrs. Hazlehurst, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit  
my fifteenth Annual Report on the health and Sanitary  
Condition of your district in 1946.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	4,906.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1946.	5,929.
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1946, according to the rate book.	1,549.
Rateable value.	£21,424.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£92.

The post war dislocation of national life reflected itself locally in a year of increasing austerity. Nevertheless, the provision was sufficient to maintain a normal standard of health and the death rate was below average.

With such principal local industries as coal mining, including large open-cast developments, brick manufacture, agriculture and stone quarrying, the opportunities for male employment are improving. But many, especially colliers, still travel to work outside the district, and this applies especially also to the female section of the population who find employment in the cotton mills and engineering works accessible in adjoining areas.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	89	44	45
Illegitimate.	5	4	1
	<u>94</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>46</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of the district.			15.8.
Other live birth statistics, introduced for the purpose of comparison.			
	Total	Male	Female
Live births in district during 1945.	81	46	35
Live birth rate for 1945.			14.0
Average rate for the previous five years (1941-45).			16.0

Live birth rate for England and Wales in 1946 19.1.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Still Births	1	1	-

Rate per 1,000 total(live and still) births 10

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths	67	27	40

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. 11. 3

Death rate for district in 1945 14. 0

Mean death rate for district during five years, (1941-45) 12.1

Death rate for England and Wales in 1946 11. 5

Deaths from Puerperal causes.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000 total live and still births.
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	-	Nil.
Other maternal causes.	-	Nil.
	<u>-</u>	<u>Nil.</u>

Death-rate of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	21
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	22
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	nil.
Number of deaths per 1,000 live births in district in 1945.	74.
Mean number of infantile deaths in district per 1,000 live births for five years (1941-45)	69
Number of infantile deaths per 1,000 live births in England and Wales in 1946	43
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory facilities.

Pathological Specimens - submitted to Wigan Infirmary - 3 throat swabs.

Bacteriological Examinations - carried out at Liverpool City Laboratories - 1 water sample.

(b) Ambulance facilities - No change.

(c) Nursing in the home - under the auspices of the local Queens Nursing Association. The District Nurse continued to render valuable and much appreciated service.

(d) Clinics and treatment centres - no change.

(e) Hospitals - no change.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) Water.

The district's consumption of water in the year was approximately one and three quarter million gallons less than in the previous year but, even so, considerably in excess of former years, accountable largely again to the demands of the open-cast mining developments.

The various sources of supply contributed to the following extents.

Whittle Shaft	-	30,530,000 galls.
Wigan Corporation	-	14,070,000 "
Cob Moor	-	6,460,000 "
Higher Tunnel	-	985,000 "
Total		<u>52,045,000 "</u>

The average daily consumption was 145,876 galls, equal to 24.6 galls per head of the population.

The Wigan supply maintained its importance second only to that of the Whittle Shaft. The five years agreement under which the supply comes has little more than a year to run. Endeavouring to restore self sufficiency the Council explored all local possibilities for alternative supplies. One source bacteriologically pure was rejected on expert advice as of such hardness to be uneconomical entreatment. Another was contaminated and impracticable from a maintenance point of view. Deepening the present Whittle Shaft was also considered, but again dismissed on account of the uncertainty of results to be anticipated, to say nothing of the difficulty of providing for the district in the process. Finally, the prospect of boring to tap subterranean veins was deemed to be a costly venture, also fraught with doubts of success. Eventually and more recently, the problem was presented for guidance to the Ministry of Health, especially in the light of pending developments on a National basis.



The results of chemical and bacteriological tests are appended.

<u>20.2.46.</u>	<u>Whittle Shaft.</u>	<u>Liverpool City Laboratories.</u>
Total solid matter in solution.		44.64 parts per 100,000.
Oxygen required to oxidise	- { in 15 minutes	0.008
	{ in 3 hours	0.013
Ammonia		0.017
Ammonia from organic matter.		0.006
Nitrogen as nitrates		minute trace.
Nitrogen as nitrites		minute trace.
Combined Chlorine		2.30
Total hardness (all temporary)		25.5

The sample was clean, faintly yellow and odourless. It contained only a trace of suspended matter which consisted of vegetable debris with algae, diatoms, infusoria, iron, organisms, with hydrated oxide of iron and particles of siliceous matter.

The results of the chemical analysis indicate some pollution with organic matter of both animal and vegetable origin which has not been fully oxidised. In my opinion the water in its present state is unsafe for human consumption. It will be improved by efficient chlorination.

<u>25.4.46.</u>	<u>Whittle Shaft.</u>	<u>County Laboratories.</u>
Total solids in solution.		62.0 parts per 100,000
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 15 minutes		0.003
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 3 hours		0.006
Ammonia		0.045
Albuminoid Ammonia		0.007
Nitrogen as nitrates		nil
Nitrogen as nitrites		faint trace.
Combined Chlorine		2.3
Temporary hardness (alkalinity)		43.2
Total hardness (total calcium and magnesium salts by filtration)		16.4
Sodium Carbonate.		28.4

The figure for free ammonia is high. This and the faint trace of nitrites may, however, be due to the reduction of nitrates by ferrous iron in the water. There is no other indication of the presence of organic matter, and in the event of satisfactory bacteriological reports, the supply may be accepted as wholesome. The hardness results indicate that the water contains sodium carbonate.

20. 2. 46.                      Cobmoor Bore Hole                      liverpool City laboratories

Total solid matter in solution.	30.32 parts per 100,000
Oxygen required to oxidise - {	(in 15 minutes 0.010
	(in 3 hours 0.018
Ammonia	0.001
Ammonia from organic matter	0.004
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.15
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Combined Chlorine	3.20
Total hardness	20.0

The sample was clear, colourless and odourless. It contained only a minute trace of suspended matter which consisted of vegetable debris, hydrated oxide of iron and particles of siliceous matter.

The results of the chemical analysis indicate some past pollution with organic matter of animal origin which has been well oxidised and also some pollution with organic matter of vegetable origin which has not been fully oxidised. In my opinion the water in its present state is fit for human consumption.

25. 4.46.                      Bispham (Wigan Corporation)                      County laboratories.

Total solids in solution.	72.0 parts per 100,000
oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 15 mins.	0.029
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 3 hours	0.064
Ammonia	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.005
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.04
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Combined Chlorine	3.3
Temporary hardness (alkalinity)	51.6
Total hardness (total calcium and magnesium salts by filtration)	11.2
Sodium Carbonate	42.8

The analytical results indicate the presence of some organic matter but there is no evidence of animal pollution. The water is faintly turbid but subject to this and to a satisfactory bacteriological report, should prove suitable for domestic purposes. The hardness results indicate that the water contains sodium carbonate.

Bacteriological Report- 12.8.46. - Liverpool City Laboratories.

<u>Description.</u>	<u>Bacteria per cc</u>		<u>B Coli</u> <u>per 100 cc</u>	<u>Total Coliform</u> <u>organisms per</u> <u>100 cc</u>
	<u>at 37°C</u>	<u>at 22°C</u>		
Cobmoor Shaft	0	3	13	35

Class 4 = unsatisfactory

NB. This water can be made satisfactory bacteriologically by treatment.

The foregoing results give no cause for compacency. Even the Whittle Shaft water, which bacteriologically has always been without blemish, does not escape the Liverpool Analyst without question, whereas Cobmoor is incriminated, as usual, by the bacteriologist, and the vital importance of efficient chlorination simultaneously demonstrated. Thus, while accepting the advice sought from the Ministry, to curtail developments as to quantity, expediencies for the needs of the immediate future only, the Council feel impelled to concentrate in some measure on improving the quality of the supply and are pursuing enquiries to this end.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Plans are now sanctioned for the construction of a sewage disposal plant of the biological filtration type to replace on the site the present inadequate broad irrigation system in Billinge Chapel Ind. As this will be dealing with the sewage from that part of the district where building development is scheduled to be concentrated, its importance is paramount. Its completion will become a matter of increasing urgency as the housing schemes proceed.

In the Higher end too, an antiquated method is overtaxed, but here further building development is to be restricted, so there can be no aggravation of existing trouble. Furthermore, the difficulty will eventually admit of a ready solution by the merging of schemes of adjoining authorities, as was beneficially effected a few years ago with Wigan for that part of Winstanley adjoining the boundary. In anticipation of this, temporary measures are justifiable.

There remains, outside the scope of the present provisions, an isolated hamlet (Kings Moss), which has never had a sewerage system of any kind. Its low lying position with respect to the remainder of the district precludes any participation in the general schemes, and so the few houses there discharge crude waste in dangerous proximity to a passing stream. No building developments or privy conversions are possible in that locality under these circumstances. The Council, aware of the exigence of the matter, are devoting themselves forthwith to the contrivance of an effective remedy.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

These are kept under the close surveillance of the Rivers Board. The absence of complaint is tantamount to acknowledgement of the effectiveness of sewage treatment since this constitutes the only potential contaminant.



(4) Closet Accommodation at the end of 1946.

Privy middens. Number of middens	-	155
No. of closets attached to these middens	-	479
No. of pail closets.	-	4
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens)	-	Nil
No. of movable ashbins.		715
No. of houses on water carriage system	-	797
No. of fresh water closets	-	814
No. of waste water closets	-	Nil

Conversions.

No. of privy closets to fresh water closets	-	10
No. of privy closets to fresh water closets during last five years (1941 - 45)	-	Nil
No. of pail closets to fresh water closets	-	Nil
No. of pail closets to fresh water closets during last five years (1941 - 45)	-	Nil
No. of privy closets to pail closets	-	Nil
No. of privy closets to pail closets during last five years (1941 - 45)	-	Nil

(5) Public Cleansing.

The improvement anticipated a year ago in the way of a new covered motor waggon for collection of bin refuse is still eagerly awaited and most especially by the men engaged in the work. The vehicle has been on order for many months, but supplies are limited and delay therefore inevitable. An additional amenity in the way of equipment would be the provision of bin trolleys as previously recommended

(6) Shops.

The Shops Act 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e. ventilation, sanitary conveniences etc. are administered by the County Council. The Sanitary Inspector visits all premises included within the meaning of the Acts, and reports to the County Council.

(7) Sanitary Inspection of Area.

(Vide Sanitary Inspector's report)

(8) Smoke Abatement.

There are five factory and works chimneys in the district and ten observations were made for the excessive emission of black smoke. There was no cause for complaint.

(9) Swimming Baths and Pools.

None - public or private in this district.

(10) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The routine disinfection of the household goods of those transferring to new Council houses is not a practice in this district. The Council gave the matter earnest consideration on my recommendation, but ultimately rejected the suggestion conclusively, agreeing only to action in any individual case considered necessary on the evidence of the Sanitary Officer. No such occasion arose in the year.

(11) Schools.

The Sanitary condition of the two schools in the district continued generally satisfactory. The water supply remained adequate.

Attendance was well maintained as the prevailing epidemics affected principally the children of pre-school age.

SECTION D.

Housing.

While houses have been in greater demand than ever, the pace of building both public and private has been decreasing. Shortages of materials and bad weather have been chiefly responsible. By the end of 1946, with overcrowding at a new peak and entirely out of hand, nine houses only had been completed and all by private building. The Council Scheme at Birchley, however, was proceeding. Twenty houses were approaching completion and 1947 gives promise of greater fulfilment though to what extent is still uncertain. Arrangements for the development of the new Claremont Estate containing 150 houses are also well in hand but when all these will achieve actuality is still more problematical.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(i)	by the local Authority	-	Nil.
(ii)	by other local Authorities	-	Nil.
(iii)	by other bodies or persons	-	9

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	-	154.
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	-	184.
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	-	Nil.
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	-	Nil.
(iii)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-	Nil.
(iv)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	-	76

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers - 7.

Action under statutory powers during the year:-

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16. of the Housing Act, 1936.
  - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - Nil.
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
    - (i) by owners - Nil.
    - (ii) by Local Authority in default of owners - Nil.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
  - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied - 69.
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
    - (i) by owners - 69.
    - (ii) by Local Authority in default of owners - Nil.
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
  - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - Nil.
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - Nil.
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
  - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made - Nil.
  - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit - Nil.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

There were 35 cowkeepers (including dairy farmers) and 11 milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) on the register. The approximate number of cows computed to be in the district was 300. Ninety inspections were made during the year. The premises generally were satisfactory. Samples of milk were not tested for tubercle infection apart from those taken from supplies to schools on behalf of the County Council. No licence was issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order. There are no bottling plants within the area.

(b) Meat and other foods.

There is no slaughter house within the district. All shops, stalls and vehicles where food is prepared were inspected but no cause for complaint was found, and no infectious disease was reported in connection with persons dealing with such food. The inspection of locally slaughtered animals is the duty of the Sanitary Inspector who includes in his report an account of these inspections.



SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases.

Infectious disease was restricted during the first eight months of the year to sporadic cases of Scarlet fever and pneumonia in the general district and isolated cases of puerperal pyrexia and ophthalmia neonatorum in Billinge Hospital. In September, however, a sudden outbreak of measles in Greenfield Childrens' Home arose from a newly admitted child and accounted for 16 notifications. In October, Whooping-cough prevailed epidemically to the exclusion of measles. Then in November, measles made a reappearance in the general district, a widespread outbreak developing which produced 80 notifications in the last two months. Whooping-cough cases continued to be notified as well, interspersing, though to a far less extent, with the measles. The district remained entirely free from diphtheria, thanks to the continuing artificial immunisation campaign. During the year, 94 pre-school children and 41 school children received the prophylactic treatment, bringing the total so treated in the former age group to 284 or 58% and in the latter to 603 or 73% of the whole. Thus 887 children representing 67.4% (roughly two-thirds) of the total child population were protected by the end of the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1946  
(AFTER CORRECTIONS).

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases notified.													Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all ages.	Age Periods - Years												Total Deaths.	Deaths in hospital or person belonging to district.
		under 1.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total Deaths.	
Scarlet Fever	13	-	-	-	1	-	7	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding rubella)	96	3	8	18	18	15	29	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough.	35	4	4	7	6	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acute pneumonia (primary & influenzal)	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3	2	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	159	9	12	25	25	25	40	10	3	3	2	3	2	4	-



Disinfection after infectious disease.

The method employed with regard to premises was fumigation with formaldehyde gas. Thirteen houses were so treated. Formites are disinfected in the autoclave by steam.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis). The notification of tuberculosis in the area is efficient, there being no instance of a non-notified tuberculosis death.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years								
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	2	2	1	-	1	-	-
	5		3		1		-	

SECTION G.

Factories and Workshops.

There was no offence under the Factory Act, 1937 during the year under review. The Sanitary Inspector working in liaison with H.M. Inspector of Factories, maintained effective supervision of local factories and workshops from the Public Health aspect.

The following is a list of the factories and workshops operating in the district in 1946.

Collieries,	-	4.
Open-cast mining plants,	-	3.
Stone quarries,	-	2.
Boot and clog repairing.	-	2.
Brickworks,	-	2.
Joinery.	-	5.
Timber reclaiming plants.	-	1.
Government Radar Station.	-	1.

Chief Sanitary requirements of district.

1. Installation of new sewage disposal plants  
(a) in Billinge Chapel End (b) in King's Moss.
2. Conversion of all privy middens.
3. Water softening plant.
4. Extension of public water supply to few houses  
remaining unsupplied.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J.S. MATHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

# REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1946.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BILLINGHAM-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mrs. Hazlehurst, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my  
first annual report for your consideration.

## GENERAL SURVEY.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

During the year six samples of effluent have been taken by the Lancashire Rivers Board from your sewage fields. At Lime Vale, the reports continue to be offensive, but at Orrell the effluent has been reported as satisfactory.

As no doubt you are aware, a scheme has been prepared and is now undergoing the usual procedure to enable the Council to obtain financial aid. Although the scheme is of primary importance to the Chapel End district, it is apparent that there will be delay in the construction of the plant owing to the general conditions prevailing at the present time.

During the Winter, numerous complaints were made regarding the top water sewer in Greenslate Road. Upon inspection, it was found that the sewer was in a defective condition and a length was relaid. It is, however, apparent that further work will have to be done before we can regard this sewer as satisfactory.

The rivers and streams have been kept under observation by myself and by the Lancashire Rivers Board, and it is pleasing to report that no action has been necessary.

### PUBLIC CLEANING.

House collection has maintained a weekly collection, and waste paper was collected at the same time.

The need for a modern refuse collection vehicle was realised and an order placed for a Karrier Bantam waggon. It is considered that the acquisition of this vehicle will improve refuse collection.

Tipping was stopped on Cobmoor owing to numerous complaints from tenants of adjoining houses. The tip was treated with D.D.T. and no further complaints were forthcoming.

Street Cleansing is done by men working a beat, and I feel that it is time the street barrows were replaced by a more modern truck.

Special scavenging has been done on behalf of the Ministry of Fuel and Power on roads lying in and around Opencast Mining Sites. These roads have been one constant source of trouble due to the type of vehicle travelling over them.

### CLOSET CONVERSIONS.

Although restricted through the shortage of labour and materials, the Council has attempted to reduce the number of privy middens, and during the latter part of the year ten were converted to the fresh water system. At the end of the year there were still 479 closets attached to 155 privy middens whilst 47 houses have only one water closet between two houses.

### HOUSING.

No survey of housing was made but 154 houses were inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts. Many of the houses are far from satisfactory, but the present housing problem prevents any attempt being made to ease the complaints.

The Council Houses (170 houses) were inspected twice during the year and taken generally, the cleanliness was satisfactory. Here again the houses are not having the necessary attention paid to the defects owing to the shortage of material and labour.

Many houses in the district are overcrowded, and I anticipate a long delay before this problem is eased.

### SHOPS.

Twenty-four visits were made during the year, and whilst the cleanliness was satisfactory, no shop in the district complies with Section 13, Food & Drugs Act 1938. Under the above act, it is compulsory for hot and cold water to be provided and soap and towels. Efforts will be made during the year to improve this position, but shortage of materials will again prove to be an obstacle.

### SCHOOLS.

The schools were visited regularly and were found to be unsatisfactory. At both schools ashpits still existed and the sanitary accommodation was far from satisfactory. These matters were taken up with the responsible authorities and the ashpits were abolished and the sanitary conveniences improved.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. BROWN,

Sanitary Inspector.





